

2020-2021 Studio Policy

Welcome to Alison's piano studio! Please read through the studio policy and then fill out and return the questionnaire and parent agreement on page 5.

FOCUS

Playing the piano well requires an understanding of three major components: technique, musicianship, and artistry. Technique includes a focus on developing dexterity and healthy habits, while musicianship encompasses music reading skills and analysis. A solid background of both technique and musicianship is required before entering the creative realm of artistry and personal interpretation. As a piano teacher, I will help students develop in these three areas and encourage them to use these skills to communicate effectively as musicians.

I strongly believe that a well-rounded music education is essential to one's appreciation towards classical music. As a result, I will regularly incorporate aspects of music theory, history, and literature to supplement the student's knowledge of his or her repertoire.

TUITION

IMPORTANT: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please note all lessons will be held online until it is safe to resume in-person meetings.

Lessons will be given in increments of 30, 45, 60, or 90 minutes, depending on each student's level. (30-minute option available only to beginners in 2nd grade or lower.) A non-refundable payment by cash or check is due at the first lesson of each month. Contact me for lesson rates!

ABSENCES, RESCHEDULING, & LATE POLICY

Absence notices and rescheduling requests must be made at least 24 hours in advance. Otherwise, the lesson is forfeited and no reschedule or refund is allowed.

In the case of illness or emergency, please contact me as soon as possible, and the lesson will be rescheduled at my availability. In the case that I must cancel due to illness or emergency, the lesson will be rescheduled to a later time.

Students are expected to be on time for lessons, as no additional time can be given for tardiness.

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to practice daily. The amount of time depends on each student's ability to practice effectively. As a general guideline, beginners are expected to practice 30 minutes a day, intermediate 60 minutes a day, and advanced 2+ hours a day. Aside from practice, occasional listening and writing assignments may be given as a supplement.

Parental involvement in practice sessions is highly encouraged, especially for younger students, to help students develop an effective and distraction-free practice routine.

Each student *must* attend at least one live performance each year and submit a write-up about their experience in order to guarantee studio enrollment for the following year. As a performing musician, this is **extremely** important to me! Not only will they be supporting musicians as appreciative audience members, they will also be able to witness how polished performances can result from thoughtful practicing and dedication. *Please see the Concert Reviewers' Form on my teaching page at www.alisonthepianist.com/studio-resources.*

It is customary in the musical community for students to support their teachers in performance. Therefore, I expect students to attend as many of my performances as possible.

STUDIO ACTIVITIES

STUDIO CLASSES are excellent opportunities for students to perform their repertoire, in ALL stages of preparedness, in front of their peers and to practice giving/receiving constructive feedback. Aside from performance, studio classes can consist of other forms of musical enrichment such as master classes, game days, music theory/history, etc. In order to be a supportive studio member, every student is expected to attend at least 3 of these studio classes each year.

STUDIO RECITALS are a showcase of students' dedication and progress. These are semi-formal events, and a lot of fun! As these should be among every student's primary goals, participation is mandatory.

IMPORTANT: For the 2020-2021 school year, all studio activities (lessons, recitals, studio classes, etc.) will be held online until it is safe to resume in-person meetings. Dates and times for all studio events will be announced as the year progresses due to the unpredictability of our current situation.

ACTIVITIES FOR FURTHER MUSICAL DEVELOPMENT

As mentioned above, students must attend a live performance each year. This can take the form of a symphony concert, choir concert, piano/instrumental/vocal recital, master class, etc – anything that gives students an opportunity to listen and enjoy classical music from the audience’s perspective.

There are many opportunities in the area for piano students to gain additional performing experience and feedback:

- The **Certificate of Merit program** is popular with piano students all over California because of its annual performance evaluations and theory exam offerings.
- Students are welcome to participate in **competitions** if they desire to do so.
- **Summer music camps and festivals** are wonderful ways for pianists to meet other musicians and teachers.
- **Chamber music** offers pianists opportunities to befriend and collaborate with other pianists and instrumentalists. If interested, please let me know and I will look for potential ensemble members.
- **Master classes** and **outreach performance opportunities** occasionally arise; I will let students know when there may be such opportunities.

If a student is interested in any of these, please let me know and I will happily provide additional information.

RESOURCES

Visit our password-protected studio page at www.alisonthepianist.com/studio-resources, where you’ll always be able to access various resources like a running list of performance opportunities around the Bay Area, listening assignment sheets, practice challenges, and more!

2020-2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS (subject to change)

IMPORTANT: For the 2020-2021 school year, all studio activities (lessons, recitals, studio classes, etc.) will be held online until it is safe to resume in-person meetings. Dates and times for all studio events will have to be announced as they approach due to the unpredictability of the current circumstances.

September 11, 7:00pm Zoom End-of-Summer Recital

October (TBA) Studio Class

October 31, 11:59pm Deadline for Certificate of Merit (CM) exam registration

November 5 Application fee payment for CM due

November (TBA) Studio Class

December (TBA) Winter [Zoom] Studio Recital

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January 15 Last day to submit repertoire and request dates for CM

January (TBA) Studio Class*

February (TBA) Studio Class*

March (TBA) Studio Class*

April (TBA) Studio Class*

May/June (TBA) Spring [Zoom] Studio Recital

** Please note that CM will be entirely online for 2021, so the exam dates are not yet known. Students will be required to attend the 2 studio classes immediately prior to examinations.*

STUDENT INFO SHEET & QUESTIONNAIRE

Full Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Why do you want to learn piano?

What do you most want to improve in your playing this year?

What else do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Are you interested in playing chamber music this year? _____ Yes _____ No

Parent's name _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

STUDIO POLICY AGREEMENT

By signing this agreement, I hereby agree that Alison Lee is not responsible or liable for any injuries sustained on the studio premises or premises surrounding. Alison Lee retains the right to terminate lessons with any student or guardian who displays inappropriate behavior or who fails to respect the Studio Policy. I confirm I have read through and agree to the policies put forth in the Studio Policy and understand that:

- Tuition payments are due in full at the first lesson of each month and are non-refundable;
- No additional lesson time will be given in the case that the student is late;
- The student will be able to attend and write about a classical music concert;
- The student will be able to attend at least three studio classes and both studio recitals.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____